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CalWORKs Program for Indian Health Clinics

Indian Treatment Needs

Native Americans face a variety of common service barriers ranging from lack of culturally relevant programs to high levels of unemployment, poverty and insufficient funding for services. Alcohol and other drug (AOD) funds are allocated to the 58 counties for substance abuse services.

Funding Indian Health Clinics

The Fiscal Year 2007-08 Budget Act appropriated \$2.1 million for AOD treatment services specifically designed for Native Americans. These funds were made available for disbursement to designated Indian Health Clinics through an Interagency Agreement between the Departments of Alcohol and Drug Programs and Social Services. This collaborative effort provides for a substance abuse clinician in each of the 36 Indian health clinics. The clinician provides culturally relevant alcohol, drug and mental health services for Native Americans who are either eligible for, or participating in, the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) and Tribal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) programs. Funding was also provided to transport clients to appointments.

Indian Treatment Services

Indian Health Clinics are using this funding to provide services in accordance with best practices for Native Americans. The focus of the services varies depending upon local need and priorities as determined by the clinic and their member tribe. Generally, the levels of care and types of services available include both western and traditional Native American treatment modalities. Initially, a clinician will provide an assessment for substance abuse and mental health services that may include vocational counseling and domestic violence assessment. The clinician will also provide additional assistance for clients to obtain or retain employment, such as transportation and referrals to county or TANF Welfare-to-Work services, or to the CalWORKs program.

For more information, please contact:

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